



SITUATION REPORT #69

INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: June 5, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	Number
Confirmed Cases	113
Recovered	105
Deaths	2
2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	
Confirmed Cases	4
Tests Submitted –	Number
Estimated Pending Tests Results	21
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	3012
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	13
College Place	16
Dixie	0
Prescott	3
Touchet/Lowden	3
Waitsburg	0
Walla Walla	78
TOTAL	113



SITUATION REPORT #69

Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	9
20-39	42
40-59	38
60-79	18
Over 80	6
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	56
Male	57
TOTAL	113

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county department.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 6/8/2020.
- Received notification that the PPE tier allocation is going to change beginning June 5, 2020 allowing Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.



SITUATION REPORT #69



1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-202051810313	5/18/2020	Walla Walla County Coroner's Office.	Assigned the Health and Medical Services
WA-20205271690	5/27/2020	BMAC Food Bank Personnel request	Assigned to ESF 20-Defense support to Civil Authorities

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) met with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent social messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mart Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH met with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.
- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.



SITUATION REPORT #69

- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Ongoing work at PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that have been delayed; developing protocols. they are performing scheduled surgeries or procedures that are either “urgent, timely or compelling.”
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate’s Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- Approximately 445 patients tested at Odd Fellows (LTC, ALF) with the assistance of PSMMC.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC’s auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Business/economy reopening workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses.
- Washington National Guard deployment extended for support of food bank operations to end of July/mid-August.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.
- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master’s Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Preliminary guidance materials received from WA Secretary of Health Wiesman for Phase 3; optimistic that we will be able to move to Phase 3 on schedule.
- Frequent meetings of Business Reopening Workgroup.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.

3. Risks and challenges

- Walla Walla County has **113** confirmed COVID-19 cases (**2 additions from last report**), **2** deaths, **5** active cases, **105** recovered, **1** hospitalized (from Benton-Franklin County)
- Strain on emergency management logistics; frequent changes to resource ordering procedures. Charging for supplies will negatively impact our fire districts as they have limited funding.
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Economic impact felt broadly by all businesses, especially small businesses.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Significant reduction in Alaska Airlines flight availability out of Walla Walla Regional Airport.
- Increase in crisis calls and behavioral health/substance abuse patients presenting at hospital; all have been higher acuity of care.
- Ongoing thoughtful, timely communications.
- Logistics challenges with orders from UAC SEOC; understanding what is being sent, when it is being sent. Receiving PPE deliveries with short notification.



SITUATION REPORT #69

- Raising awareness of large gatherings.
- Multiple testing platforms needed to overcome COVID19 testing challenges.
- Rampant unemployment claim fraud.
- N-95 mask supply issues; shortage of masks and fit testing supplies.
- Complacency from low case count; Yakima and Benton-Franklin Counties are seeing significant surges from community transmission.
- There is a lot of misinformation out there on COVID-19, it is an '[infodemic](#),' including information that 5G mobile networks spread COVID-19 and ALL counties in the state WILL be open June 1st.
- Agricultural activities ramping up; we need to make sure we communicate with agricultural employers, follow DOH guidelines for monitoring.
- Starting to see shortages in the supply chain of disinfecting supplies.
- Surge in Benton-Franklin County agricultural community; their hospitals are at capacity and two patients under investigation were recently transferred to PSMMC in Walla Walla.
- Increased call volume to DCH Environment Health division about PPE requirements at businesses.
- Washington National Guard deployment for support of food bank operations may be impacted by the WNG activation for civil unrest.
- Language is not clear for June 8th required cloth face coverings. Conference call with SEOC at 11:30 today.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM coordination with WSDA and Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) for Food Assistance Program.
- WWM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC).
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Unified Command EOC conference calls, Monday-Wednesday-Friday.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- Case investigation/contact tracing of positive case.
- Continued LTC/SNF/ALF isolation/surge planning/coordination.
- Communicating the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- PSMMC has reduced visitor restrictions; restrictions are still place, but they're less severe.
- Reopening Business Workgroup will continue to communicate PPE requirements to businesses. Starting June 8 all employers must provide employees with cloth face masks.
- Phased Reopening meeting with Law Enforcement today to discuss governor's directives as we move through the phases, isolation and quarantine follow-up.



SITUATION REPORT #69

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 6/10 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- June 5:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH convened a Walla Walla Co. Reopening work group meetings held on (5/13, 5/15, 5/18, 5/20, 5/22, 5/27, 5/29, 6/2 & 6/4); including representation from City of Walla Walla, College Place, Providence PSMMC, Walla Walla County Commissioners, and members from DCH to review guidelines on various business sectors to align messaging and customize the guidance to our local businesses. Next meetings scheduled for 6/9 and 6/11
- DCH convened a meeting on 6/5 with Law Enforcement to discussing the phases of reopening
- DCH Communication's Team working on three contact tracing videos with CMBell; plus, three additional videos with community messaging
- DCH Communications team developed PSAs in Spanish, will be airing 2x day on local radio
- Providence's Population Health team of nurses and social workers has monitored over **2692** patients from the Walla Walla Valley. All were tested for COVID-19 and were symptomatic. Monitoring includes calling the patient within 48 hours of their initial visit and an additional call 24 hours later. Population Health is also monitoring all positive Cases in Walla Walla County, including those from the Burbank/Wallula area.
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH Environmental Health team is providing consults for businesses.
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Homeless Response Plan completed and submitted to Department of Commerce by DCH
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with symptoms
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am M-F
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, June 9th
- DCH attending daily DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- Counties & Cities continue working online, telephone, virtual to limit interactions with the public
- DCH working with Childcare Providers participating in daily M-F call with educators
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: www.cantwell.senate.gov



SITUATION REPORT #69

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing.

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office